CHRISTMAS.

Preparations for the Festival Throughout the City.

joys of the season.

THE ISLAND INSTITUTIONS.

Extensive preparations have been made by the Commissioners of Charities and Cerrections toward providing a substantial Christmas feast for the large number of persons in their charge. Seven tons weight of poultry have been contracted for and will be consumed by the 19,000 inmates in the different institutions controlled by the Commissioners. The number mentioned is divided as follows:—3,000 prisoners, 1,400 patients sick and disabled. But the poultry will not be all. Other rarities will be rejoicing for twenty-four hours in the Island institutions before the old year dies.

At the Howard Mission, No. 40 New Bowery, the little ones will get their feast of turkey and mince pie as heretofore, but in order to enable the scalety to make the feast one worth offering it invites the charitable who remembered the children in the past to send again their gifts of provisions and clothing, that they, by indictious distribution of the same, may help to ward off in a measure the sufferings of the poor children of their neighborhood. Part of the day's celebration will consist of readings and recutations, singing of Christmas carols and like exercises. This mission is designed for the protection of homeless and neglected children. It is non-sectarian, and receives meat of its support from voluntary contributions. The nocessity of a continuance of past favors is, therefore, at once apparent:

Water street school of the Children's Aid Society was held in the schoolhouse corner of Water and Dover streets, Mr. Brace, the secretary of the sousety, presiding. Seventy-five of the poorest children in the city are taken care of by Mrs. S. A. Seymour, the principal, who distributed among them winter clothing, the gifts of charitable ladies, members of the concety who are doing all within their power to lessen the sufferings of the poor. After the children had been made happy by receiving their winter clothing songs were sung and several recitations delivered.

THE FOUNDLINGS.

At the Founding Asylum in Sixty-eighth street, between Lexington and Third avenues, a Christmas tree will be provided, and the little ones will receive their friends on the 28th inst.

At the Five Points House of Industry claborate preparations are usually made for the Christmas celebration. The chapel is decked with evergreens, and a great tree bows with its load of gifts, including an interesting variety useful and palatable, from shoes to stgar pions. The children who get these gifts naturally long for the feast that brings their each good cause for rejoicing. They will attend services in the chapel at one o'clock, and siterward participate in a programme including a variety of exercises of a musical and symmastic charaewin attend services in the chapter at one o'clock, and afterward participate in a programme including a variety of exercises of a musical and gymnastic charac-ter, including an operata entitled "Little Red Ridding Hood," so be given in costume. Visitors are cordially invited and contributions of books and tops solicited. Besides the dinners provided for the newsboys at

nessons the dinners provided for the newsboys at the different institutions that occasionally take care of these little waifs another feast will be served up for them at Mouquin's restaurant. This Christmax banquet is the offering of the Evening Telegram.

These are but a few of the great many institutions whose inmates will have substantial reasons for welcoming the Christmas featival.

BUYING THE PERSENTS.

All the world seemed to have been attracted to Sixth avenue and Broadway yesterday. There were thousands of people gazing into the shop windows and thousands were waiting for a chance to do so. No wonder. The stores were in their best dress; the finest and rarest presents were on view. Nothing that the heart could desire or the mind imagine was absent Naturally, therefore, the admiring glances of the multitude were wooed by them, and a crush was the conse quence. Only the energetic could get near enough to ache to own more than its possessor could pay for, and while joy thrilled their hearts chagrin interfill them with regret for their in ability to gratify their desire. It is useless, however, to speculate on the contending feelings of those who looked and louged in vain. We have only to record what they saw and again awaken the pangs that burt them during the preceding week. A. T. Stewart's, Richard Meares', the Stern Brothers', Lussem's Palais Royal, Altman's, O'Neill's, Arnold, Constable & Co.'s and Macy's were the emporiums most closely observed by the HERALD reporter yesterday. The first was even more than usually crowded. Indeed, it was filled with tadies and gentlemen. Carriages and splendid equipages encircled it, and well dressed groups of wealthy persons choked the doorways, rendering egress and incross matters of some difficulty. As of yore,

attracts an enormous custom and deservedly. The superintendent, Mr. Jennings, carefully overlooks the workings of the vast retail establishment at the corner of Broadway and Tenth street. He kindly put the reporter in the way of obtaining an explanation of the mysteries of the several departments in this great mark of fashionable holiday wars. After roaming through the labyrinth of dress goods; hosiery and millinery, the visitor was impressed with the grandeur of the display, and reached the conclusion that the slike were the finest in the market. The gentleman in charge of this branch offers very cheap lots of black material, some of them imported and some which were purchased at auction in this city far below their original value. Indeed, he said, the retail prices during the holiday season are twenty-five per cont less than they were in September, and he exemplified his statement by remarking that the finest grades of Lyons silks, of the best manufactures, were sold at from \$2 to \$6 a yard

A. T. STEWART'S

which marks an indisputable reduction on former rai in the material of tints, adapted to street, dining a evening contumes, the silk is disposed of at prices value from \$1.25 upward. Then, too, there are specially the silk is disposed of at prices with the silk in the silk in the silk is disposed of a prices with the silk in the Throughout the City.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

What the Institutions and Stores Are Doing.

GLAD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY.

GLAD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY.

Once again old Father Time, in his revolving course, brings us the great featively of the best country of the country of the best country of the country o

will be provided to complete the feast. So there will be rejoicing for twenty-four hours in the Island institutions before the oid year dies.

At the Howard Mission, No. 40 New Bowery, the little ones will get their feast of turkey and mince pie as herectoric, but in order to enable the society to make the feast one worth offering it invites the chartable who remembered the children in the past to send again their gifts of provisions and clothing, that they, by judicious distribution of the same, may help to ward off in a measure the sufferings of the poor children of their neighborhood. Part of the day's celebration will consist of readings and recitations, singing of Christmas carols and like exercises. This mission is designed for the protection of homeless and neglected children. It is non-sectarian, and receivas most of its support from voluntary contributions. The necessity of a continuance of past favors is, therefore, at once apparent.

CILLDERY'S and society.

An appeal is made on behalf of the Children's Aid Society, whose managers are trying to provide dinners and more lasting gifts for the inners and more lasting gifts for the inners and more lasting gifts for the inners and more lasting gifts for the minates of their different branches on Christmas Day. The society requests that contributions in its aid may be sent to No. 12 East Fourth street. They give the newsboys good dimers at the lodging houses in William street; for the boot-hiscks and newsboys, in the Kivington street hoose, they also procure a feast, and they have other lodging houses and schools throughout the class of customers that were at that memory of which the has given to the world, those who have should be noticed the spied of the past this season. In their appeal for public aid the managers say:—

"The Christmas scanson should bring a brief laspiness oven to the most outcast and miserable; and in memory of which the large that the long that the lo

and one might the partoned for specially indicating the palpable excellence of the ladies? furnishing and outliting department. The mere enumeration of the different articles to be had at Mr. Meares' would take more space than any one journal at the present time can really spare. There are large assortments of elegant costumes of the latest designs, varying is value from \$50 to \$275. Also Cashmere are silk costumes, suitable for carriage, dinner and evening dress, worth from \$60 to \$275. Also Cashmere and silk suits of all colors, very stylishly made, and costing only \$25 and \$30. Swiss suits of good make and fine labrio, trimined with lace, are sold for \$10 and \$29, and trimmed hats, from the hands of the most celebrated Parrisian modistes, are marked down as low as \$20 or \$30. This house imports largely in silks, making it a rule to have the newest shades when first they are introduced. Colored gros grain is sold by Mr. Meares at this time as low as \$125 and as high as \$250 per yard. Besides these special features, there were exhibited yesterday dress goods in every variety, many having been imported and purchased for special holiday trade, to be disposed of at prices ranging from lifteen to fifty cents a yard. It has connection it would be just to remark this preparation in the way of

there were exhibited yesterday dress goods in every variety, many having been imported and purchased for special holiday trace, to be disposed of at prices ranging from fifteen to fifty cents a yard. In this connection it would be just to remark this preparation in the way of laying in a good stock for the season was made by the head of the firm to secure such articles as would be most suitable for holiday presents. There are the Chancellor, the Creedimoor, the Arayle scarts for gentlemen, in different colors, at \$1, \$1 20 and \$1 50 each. Beautiful silk handkerchiefs are seld at sixtyfive, seventy-five and eighty-eight cents each. There are also the different varieties of fine laces in point, point d'applique, thread and the fashionable white cashmere laces. They are sold at 35 cents and \$1 a yard. The assortment of ties for ladies is very large and fine and the class of customers such as might be desired by any firm in the city. Mr. Meares is seling his stock of toys at a great reduction to close them out, and he says he does not intend keeping any but the finest class of goods after this season.

Corner of Broadway and Fourteenth street, Mr. Lissner's elegant fancy goods store, there is a grand display of splendid wares eminently suitable for holiday presents. The collection of fans is remarkably unique. They are of pearl, vory, ebony, and white estrich feathers, with amber shell sticks. Chalciaine watches in crystal balls, shell, ebony and silver are protty things, cheaply sold and really valuable. The assortment of shell goods, such as sets of necklaces, pendants neatly carved combs imported from Naples, card cases, work boxes, tablets, pocketbooks, cigar cases and match after a ricles, opera glasses, albums, time French dolls, mechanical toys, belts, cinctures and articles of rare merit are disposed of at very low figures. All these things have been attracting general notice, as may be attested by the crowds of peeple who gaze through the windows daily and all the store. The salest women have as much as th

CHRISTMAS AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE. The Custom House will be closed on Christmas Day, save between the hours of nine and ten A. M., for the entrance and clearance of vessels.

INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

At a meeting held yesterday afternoon by those in terested in the Institution for the Blind, located at the corner of Thirty-fourth street and Ninth avenue, the following gentlemen were elected managers for the ensuing year:—Augustus Schell, Robert S. Hone, D. Lydig Suydam, Nathaniel P. Hosnek, Theodorus Bailey Myers, John Treat Irving, James M. McLean, Alexander Van Rensselaer, Smith Clift, William Whitewright, Jr.; William C. Schermerhorn, Charles De Rham, Francis A. Stout, William B. Hoffman, F. A. Schermerhorn, Peter Marie, Frederick W. Rhinelander, Frederick Sheldon, Chandler Hobbins and Charles E. Strong.

OUTDOOR CHARITY.

The Commissioners of Charities and Correction yesterday adopted the following resolution, which will explain itself .--

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR-SUCCESS OF THE NAUTICAL SCHOOL-THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND

The Board of Education held an adjourned meeting yesterday afternoon, Mr. W. H. Nelson presiding. There was a full attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting having been approved, several commu-

The chairman announced that the holidays for the schools would commence to morrow and terminate on

A communication was read from the Comptroller's Department assigning the premises on the southeast corner of Lexington avenue and Sixty eighth street to the Board of Education for a grammar or primary

Commissioner Wetmore introduced a resolution providing for the use of a piano on the nautical school-Commissioner Patterson said the idea was absurd.

Commissioner Wetmore submitted that the youths

Commissioner Patterson said the idea was absurd.

Commissioner Wetmore submitted that the youths gow being educated would be elevated by the moral love which music was sure to create.

Commissioner Patterson.—The youths are taught only to handle ropes and with tar on their hands sailors would look nice playing pianos.

Commissioner Wetmore—The object was not to teach them the piano. Sailors as a general thing can sing, and it is certainly better that they should be taught to sing good songs than that they should learn bad ones, which they are apt to do.

After some discussion the resolution was adopted, having been warmly advocated by Commissioner Wood.

PROCEESS OF THE NATURAL SCHOOL.

Commissioner Wetmore submitted for the information of the Board the report of a committee appointed in connection with the Chamber of Commerce, in reference to the Nantical School. It set forth that on the day appointed for inspection and examination they found the St. Marys clean and well ventilated and that there were good arrangements for the comfort and care of the scholars; that the Superintendent Commander, R. L. Phythian, of the United States Navy, was a gentleman of experience at the Naval Academy, and his assistants, Lieutenant Commander George H. Wadleigh, Lieutenant G. W. De Long (whose daring feats in the Arctic regions may readily be remembered) and Lieutenant H. W. Jaques, were graduates of that institution and were well litted for their present duties. The report spoke in the most eulogistic terms of the scholars, their general efficiency and discipline.

A vote of thanks was passed unanimously to the Chief Clerk, Mr. Lawrence D. Kiernan, for the unremiting attention and ability which he had displayed during the summan and the summan and a labortous duties during the venue.

A vote of thanks was also tendered to Mr. John Davenport, the Auditor of the Board.

The Chairman, Mr. Neilson, responded pleasantly and with feeling to a unanimous vote.

A SCHOOL RECEPTION.

The primary department of Grammar School No. 68, in 128th street, near Sixth avenue, gave its closing exercises yesterday morning, in presence of a large number of visitors, who appeared to take a lively interest in the proceedings. The programme afforded the pupils a chance to distinguish themselves, and also gave proof of the great care with which they had been trained. There were choruses, solos, recitations, a charade, the distribution of rolls of honor and prizes, as well as addresses by friends of the school. The affair passed off most enjoyably.

THE WATER STREET SCHOOL.

was yesterday filled with about seventy of the poorest and worst clad children in the Fourth ward. The occasion was the Christmas festival, and the little children made every endeavor to look clean if not handsome. A number of friends of the principal, Mrs. S. A. Seymour, and of the school were present to witness the exer cises. The little girls, aged from three to thirteen years, were decorated with paper scarfs and head bands, and after partaking of a good wash in the schoolroom made a favorable appearance. The boys, of course, appeared in their usual tostume, shoeless, shirtless and without head gear. When Mr. Dupuy opened the programme with a short address each little heart leaped with delight, for before them was a Christmas tree laden with clothing, toys and candy. Their singing and recitations were very good, and at the close each little hand was presented to receive the coveted prize. The distribution of the presents was a scene never to be forgotten, as, in fact, the little ones thought more of their stockings, pants, shirts and jackets than they did of the candies and toys. Among the visitors were Mrs. Johnson, of Staten Island; Mrs. Rev. C. L. Brace, Mrs. S. Storms, Mrs. J. Emith, Mrs. M. Leary, Mrs. Sarsh Maciarran, Mrs. J. Smith and brother, and many others, all friends to the school. years, were decorated with paper scarfs and head bands,

CHARITY COMMISSIONERS. .

The above Commissioners are now making a thorough private investigation of the several institutions under their jurisdiction, with a view to bringing about better discipline among the officers and a more stringent enforcement of the rules. It seems that for some time the ment of the rules. It seems that for some time the Workhouse and one or two other departments have had in reality no head. In fact, the present officer in charge of the Workhouse is the engineer of that institution. It seems that there has been a great deal of insubordination, owing to the fact that keepers, being pets of the several Commissioners by whom they were appointed, defy the wardens, and thereby cause a great deal of dissatisfaction. Were the wardens allowed the appointment of their own keepers and held responsible for the same escapes among the prisoners would be less frequent. During the past week the Commissioners have been obliged to dismiss two keepers for allowers have been obliged to dismiss two keepers for allow-ing prisoners to escape. They now begin to see that they must take some action to obviate this difficulty, or the Legislature will do it for them.

WASHINGTON IRVING'S MONUMENT.

The ladies who have associated themselves together for the patriotic purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of America's favorite author, Washington Irving, are receiving hearty responses from many parts of the country and meeting with fair success in collecting funds. The association was initiated by ladies of New York, Westchester and Kings counties, Mrs. E. F. Wait, the present Secretary, being among the first to move in this truly national undertaking. The several committees are made up from the best circles of our metropolitan and national society. The following ladies compose the Executive Committee:—Mra B. H. Van Auken, Mrs. Algernon S. Sullivan, Mrs. M. E. Winchester, Mrs. Governor Henry Howard, Providence, R. I.; Mrs. Dr. W. O. McDonald, Mrs. E. F. Walt, Mrs. C. W. Cornell and Mrs. C. K. Garrison. The General Committee contains the names of twenty-five ladies of distinction in New York, Brooklyn, Croton, Sing Sing, Scarborough, Irvington, Fordham, New Brighton, Washington, D. C.; St. Louis, Mo., and elsewhere. The honorary committee of gentiemen who have signified their willingness to act comprise such names as William Cullon Bryant, Governor Tilden, Thurlow Weed, Peter Cooper, Major, General Hancock, Cornelius Vanderbit, Mayor Wickham, Secretary Fish, Kalph Waldo Emerson, Governor Henry Howard, of Rhode Island, and many others.

Ex. Mayor Gunther has sent in a liberal donation.
Mr. Jay Gould contributed \$250 and Mr. Jefferson, the inimitable Rip Van Winkle, has given \$500, which is lodged in the hands of Mr. Tillany as treasurer. Mrs. George W. Curlis, Mrs. Livingsion Satteriee and other ladies of Staten Island are lending a hand to the good work.

work.

As stated on a former occasion in these columns, it has been decided to raise a fund of \$26,000; and instead of erecting a colossal bust, as was first proposed, a full length statue of the great living will soon grace Central Park. Nevertheless, a bronzed copy of the great bust, as at first intended to be cast, will be placed on exhibition next year at Philadeiphia.

The Secretary of the Ladies' Association has written to queen Victoria, the ex-Empress Engénie, the poet Tennyson and other distinguished personages; rightly believing that if Americans are to contribute toward a monument for Lord Byron, it is not too much to expect a return of the compliment from Englishmen in the present case.

OTHER WORLDS THAN OURS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

In his lecture last night on the above subject Profes sor Proctor gives it as his opinion that Jupiter is not inhabited by life like ours. Of course this is an undeniable fact when we come to consider Jupiter's physical construction, but still this does not quash the theory of the plurality of worlds. When we analyze our ow construction as living beings we find that we are made in exact accordance with the physical construction of the planet Earth. If the sun gave out double its accustomed heat and light, or if our atmospheric pressure was more than it is, life like ours would cease; but it does not follow that the world would be devoid of inhabitants. We have daily proof that heat and electricity will produce life everywhere. Therefore I say there is no legitimate argument to prove that Jupiter is not inhabited by beings with souls. They may be grantlike and mighty in their form, perhaps of a different color than us, and formed in accordance with Jupiter's attraction of gravity, as we are formed in accordance with the earth's. They may be far more wise than us, and they may live to be hundreds of years of age. They may be lar richer than us in the gifts of knowledge, and they may live in perfect harmony and hims. I think, when we survey the heavens and find so many worlds constructed on the same scale as ours though some are far more grantly receiving their share of heat and light from the sun and revolving around the contral power from the same cause that ruiss us, we have a perfect right to believe that life even more grand than ours exists there. The longer we study astronomy the more fully we become convinced that such is the case, if we accept facts and discard superstition. Yours, &c., Thirman DEAN. re was more than it is, life like ours would cease; but

HOLIDAY LITERATURE.

A Glance at the Gift Books of the Season.

The Publications of All the Leading Houses.

Books for the Pocket and to Suit Everybody's Pocket.

If any man be bold enough to say that we are not a reading public he need only glance in at the windows of any of our book stores to see what a misstatement he has made. Crowds of people eibow one another around the book lined counters and all the stores have had to put on large extra forces of clerks and keep open through the evening. One gentleman bought \$3,000 worth of books in one afternoon at a popular Broadway store, and was almost ready to weep when he saw what a little way toward founding a library his purchases went. There are few more attractive Christmas presonts than books; they are the best of friends. It is a little singular that people leave the delicate task of selecting these treasures until the week of Christmas and often until the very day before. If they only began earlier they could take their time to it. It may be that they like the excitement of buying in a crowd; there is something in that. People always attract people. It is pleasant to be wedged in between smiling faces and to hear the general hum of holiday talk float. ing through a well filled store.

The publishers have done everything this year to tempt the nimble sixpence, and he must be a miserly old fellow, indeed, who can resist the attractions spread up expressly for holiday sale, with everything on the outside and nothing between the covers, this year-Books that should find a market on their own merits are offered, and binding has become such a fine art that almost every book that looks up at you from the counters or out at you from the shelves is made attractive by its tasteful cover.

make no especial holiday announcements, but they offer some unusually tempting books at this season. Miss Virginia W. Johnson's "Catakill Fairles" is one of the most charming books of fairy lore we have met with in a long time. It peoples the Catakill Mountains with wonderful little people, who promise to become real to the girls and boys who read the book. Joseph Rodman Drake was the first in this field, which is now in the hands of Miss Johnson alone. The book is profusely illustrated by Alfred Fredericks. Will Carleton's "Farm Legends" are gotten up handsomely enough to be ranked among holiday books. Fifty thousand copies of this book have been sold, although it has been out but a short time. The book is illustrated by designs by Beinhart, Sol. Eytinge, Jr., E. A. Abbey and others. This firm has also ready the first volume of John Forster's much talked of "Life of Dean Swift," handsomely bound and-oh, rare luxury to the unhurried reader!-with uncut leaves. This vo 1ume is said to be of higher literary excellence than the "Life of Dickens," by the same author. Besides this in the biographical line is the very entertaining "Life of the Rev. John Todd," told mainly by himself, and Castelar's "Life of Lord Byron." For those interested in Bible history there is Newman's "Babylon and Nineveh," being a history of the thrones and palaces of Babylon and Nineveh, from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea, and Van Lennep's "Bible Lands." This latter is certainly a very interesting and attractive book. It contains 800 illustrations and is handsomely bound. It is so full a book as scarcely to omit any interesting fact in the field which it covers. The first part deals with customs which have their origin in the physical features of Bible lands, and the second part with those that have an bistorical origin. The style has the freshness and flavor of one who writes from personal observation. New facts are stirred in with the old-incidents which carry the charm of an Eastern tale. The physical characteristics of the countries, the products, methods of cultivation, animals, with a description of the people and their domestic, ocial and religious life and institutions, all find a place in this book. It has been prepared with great care, and may be relied upon for accuracy. Altogether it is a book which Bible students will welcome and prize. General Doubleday's "Reminiscences of Forts Sum-

ter and Moultrie in 1860-61" must be counted among the holiday publications. The most attractive announcement that Harper's Monthly makes for the New Year is of George Eliot's new novel, which is said to be a portraval of English social life of the present day. The Weekly promises a serial by R. D. Blackmore and one by Miss Thackeray. The Bazar will print stories by F. W. Robinson and Miss Braddon.

BCRIBNER, ARMSTRONG & CO. This is Scribner, Armstrong & Co.'s first holiday season in their new home, and a beautiful place it is Notwithstanding the great size of the store, it is full to overflowing all day long, so that it has to be kept open during the evenings of this holiday season, and offer a fine line of fancy goods as well as books. The most noteworthy of this firm's holiday books is Rousselet's "India and its Native Princes," which has been reviewed at length in these columns. A more elegant book typographically, illustratively and in binding it would be hard to find. The book was bound in New York, and is a much finer specimen of the binder's art than the English edition. The "New Day," by Richard Watson Gilder, with its flame of peacock's feathers on the cover and the delicate designs inside, not to mention the poem itself, is a tempting little Christmas of which 40,000 copies have already been sold; and a new edition of the always popular " Hans Brinker," by Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge, editor of St. Nicholaz. This book has had several English editions and been translated into French and Dutch, and wasn't it one of the first books that stared out of a shop window at Mrs. Dodge, when travelling through Holland last year? A new volume, by Mr. Frank R. Stockton, "Tales out of School," is one of the most attractive juveniles of the year. Mr. Stockton knows just how to amuse the young folks, and the eld ones, too. His books abound in quiet humor, and are of absorbing interest. Among the earlier publications of this firm, which still hold their own among boliday books, are Dr. Holland's "Kathrina" and "Bitter Sweet," in the illustrated editions; Pouchett's valuable work, "The Universe," and the standard histories of Froude, Mommsen and Curtius, with the works of Whitney, March, Max Muller, Ik Marvel, &c., in fine bindings, as are "Lange's Commentary" and "The Speaker's Commentary." The ten first volumes of the bric-a-brac series, of which over 70,000 copies have been sold during the past two years, have been handsomely bound in veilum and haif lum, and are sold together, in a neat case. Bound volumes of Scribner's Monthly and St. Nicholas may be found on the counters of this store. Profusely illustrated editions of Jules Verne's "Mysterious Island," in

two volumes, tempt the wonder loving boy and girl. Scribner, Welford & Armstrong take the lover of fine books by storm with an elegant edition of "Doré's Spain," which contains 120 full page illustrations and a number of smaller wood cuts by the gifted Frenchman. Another beautiful book is the Canova volume, with 150 plates in outline after this famous sculptor. The 'Chandos Poets' and other standards are among the books bearing the imprint of this bouse, one of

The "Chandos Poets" and other standards are among the books bearing the imprint of this house, one of whose specialties is the "Rose Library of the Popular Luerature of All Countries," soid at the very low price of fifty cents per volume.

Description of the house of Appleton is Lacroix's "The Eighteenth Century: its Institutions, Customs and Costumes. France in 1700—1782" Hise-trated with twenty-one chromo-lithographs and 351 wood engravings, after Wattens, Varioo, Rigaud, Boucher, Lancret, J. Vernet, Chardin, Jeaurat, Beauchardon, Saint-Aubin, Eisen, Gravelotte, Moreau and othera. Polychromatic ornament. Another bandsome volume is Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream," limitrated by Alfred Fredericks. The "English Poots," twelve essays by Joseph Gustwick, author of "German Poets," is an attractive volume. It is illustrated with twelve photographic portraits, among which we find our own Longfellow. Among other new gift books we find the "Amazon and Madeira Rivers," sketches and descriptions from the note book of an explorer, by Franz Keller, with sixty-eignt illustrations; "Japan and the Japanese," by Aimé Humbert, illustrated by Aimé Humbert, lite Sings Confederation, translated by Mrs. Cashel Hoey, and edited by H. Bates, Assistant Secretary to the Royal Geographical Society, and a new and cheaper edition of Francis Wey's "Rome," illustrated with 346 "extravings on wood, and a plan of Rome with as in...

troduction by W. W. Story. The publishers look upon "Picturesque America" as an appropriate holiday gift. It is published in two imperial quarto volumes and handsomely bound. Even the "American Cyclop.sdia" puts on a festive look and offers itself up as a holiday sacrifice. It would be an uncommonly handsome present, as it is a complete library in itself. The "Art Journal" for 1875 is not a bad Christmas gift. It contains thirty-six steel engravings and 542 wood engravings.

The Putnams offer a fine lot of children's books, among them "The Big Brother," by George Cary Eggleston, a book full of adventure; Mrs. Johnson's "Roddy's Realities," an offset to "Roddy's Romances;" "The History of My Friends," translated from the Prench and prettily illustrated, and "The Realities," and prettiles of the Realities, and a purple line of "George Cary for "George Cary for a christmas remembrance Mr. Patterson will soop publish the "Amenities of Verbal Criticism," by Charles F. Cox, which promises to make some anusing discourses.

gift. It contains thirty-six steel engravings and 642 wood engravings.

The Putnams offer a time to of children's books, among them "The Big Brother," by George Cary Engleston, a book full of adventure, Mrs. Johnson, School for the Contained of the Contained Street, and the Street, and

Haven Chieffren, by Knulle Footer, tells of the frosts at the immy old thouse in a timp old direct and without their faseinations. This firm keep at till into of Ames R. Ogood A. Ca' books, which are unsued to fame R. Ogood A. Ca' books, which are unsued to fame R. Ogood A. Ca' books, which are unsued of Ames R. Ogood A. Ca' books, which are unsued in the fame of the most displating books a threeques." In the most displating book is well anneed, for it is set at the control of the most displating to the set of the control of the most of the fame of the control of the co

G. W. Carleton & Co. offer no special holicay book of their own, but they keep those of every other publisher, and their counters display a fine line of tancy articles. The popular authors for whom this house publish are always welcome whether in holiday garb or plain work. Aday dress. Augusta J. Evans, Mary J. Holmes, Marion Harland and Mrs. Fleming, among American novelists, have bosts of readers who are glad to see them at any and all times. The "Guiprit Fay" is always in order as a Christmas book, and Mr. Talboy's "Wost India Pickles" are palatable at any season.

always in order as a Christmas book, and Mr. Talboy's
"Wost India Pickles" are palatable at any season.

E. J. Hale & Son.

A most appropriate Christmas book published by E.

J. Hale & Son is Mr. De Fontaine's "Cyclopædia of the
Best Thoughts of Charles Dickens;" Paul H. Hayne's
"Mountain of the Lovers," with poems of nature and
tradition, is a pretty gift book, and Maurice Thompson's "Hoosier Moraics" is just the book for Western
John to write his Susan's name in on Christmas moraing.

John to write his Susan's have in on Christmas morning.

Dodd a whad.

This young firm are celebrating their first holiday season in their new store, which used of the most inviting on Broadway. Among their most recent books are Mrs. Charles' "Diary of the Bertram Family:" "Elsie's Womanhood," by Martha Finiay, and the volumes comprising the "Half-Hour Series." The profine John S. C. Abbott has just added "George Washington and the Revolutionary War" to his series of "American Pioneers and Patriota." Boys who love the heroic will enjoy this series. The "Sacked Tabernacle of the Hebrews," by Rev. E. B. Atwater, D. D., is a handsomely gotten up volume, with fifty illustrations. Kdward Garrett's story books are interesting as Sunday school books. This Irm publish the Rev. John Hall's works and Rev. E. P. Roe's works. Sixty-five thousand copies of these latter have been soid. "Turn Jest to Earneat" is the latest addition to the series, and is a pleasant story of American life.

This English firm has a branch house in this city, where some unusually attractive books are offered. Their "Dresden Galfery" is a very elegant collection of photographs from the pictures in this iamous gallery. By way of general literature they have just published the "Sunlight of Song," made up of poems, with original music; "The Hamlet," an ode lilustrated by Birket Foster, and the "Golden Harp Album." There are no more beautiful toy books than those published by this house and illustrated by Walter Grane. They are works of art, and will go a great way toward cultivating the taste of a child.

RELEDON & CO.

Scheldon & Co. are closing out their retail trade and

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Charles F. Cox, which promises to make some anusing disclosures.

JAMES R. OSGODD & CO.

Of out of town publishers there are none who offer any more beautiful holiday book of American make than "Mabel Martin," published by this firm and recently roviewed at length in these columns. Mr. Whittier has been ably interpreted by Miss Hallock and Mr. T. Moran, and the book is superbly gotten up. Every taste may be gratified in Osgood's publications. Those in quest of high art will be suited with the new editions of the "Raphael" and "Toschi" volumes, and the engravings from Landseer. "Child Life in Pictures" is illustrated from the works of Correggio, Copley, Reynolds, Murillo and other masters, and Mrs. Shedd's famous painters and paintings. Mrs. W. J. Stillman's "Poetical Localities of Cambridge" is an attractive work. As welcome a present as one need care to give if the little classic edition of Hawthorne, of which seves volumes are already published, or the vest pocket sories. Then there is Emerson's new volume of "Essays," that many will consider the book of the season, and Stedman's "Victorian Poets," and poems by Bayard Taylor, Cranch, Lathrop, Browning and hosts of others.

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Taylor, Cramch, Lathrop, Browning and hosts of others.

"The Shepherd Lady," by Jean Ingelow, is the great holiday work of this house. It contains some of Miss Ingelow's best as well as newest verses, and is beautifully illustrated by Miss Halbock, Arthur Hughes, Sol. Eytinge and Mitchell. Hamerton's "Etchings and Etchers" is filled with specimen's of the author's skill, and is written in his usual attractive style. The art lover will find "A Painter's Gamp," "The Unknown River" and "Thorwaldsen's Life and Works" among the publications of this firm. The lover of poetry will revel in the works of the Rossettis, Jeaquin Miller, Miss Preston and William Morria, Roberts Brothers offer a tempting array of children's books, among which are Miss Alcott's "Eight Cousins," Sussa, Coolidge's "Nine Little Gostings," Ned Forreat's "Mice at Pay," P. Thorne's "Jolly Good Timest" and Miss Ewing's "Six to Sixteen."

OTHER BOSTON PIRMS.

Emerson's (not R. W.) "Trees and Shrubs of Massachusetts," in two volumes, Little & Brown, is one of the most elaborate books of the year. It is profusely illustrated, and treats of the flora of many other States. This firm publishes such modern standards as Carlyle, Ruskin, Thackersy, Michelet and Mill. The "Mansions of England in the Olden Time" is one of their handsomest books.

Lee & Shepard have a very pretty holiday book in "Nearer, My God, to Thee," with full page illustrations, by Miss I. B. Humphreya, Among their most attractive books are "The Great Bonanza," "The Four Footed Lovvrs," "The River of Dreams and Other Poems," "One Hundred Gems from the London Art Journal;" "The Asbury Twins," by Sophie May; "The Reading Club," and many others that will turn the heads of the children with delight.

William F. Gill & Co. have a fine holiday book is

children with delight.
William F. Gill & Co. have a fine holiday book is William F. Gill & Co. have a me nonday book is "Caurel Leaves," uniform with "Lotos Leaves." It is made up of papers and poems, chiefly of Bostos writers, and is profusely illustrated. The "Horn of Plenty" is another attractive holiday book, which contains choice selections and illustrations. A timely publication by this firm is a volume containing Dickens' Christmas stories.

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J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., &C.

"Contemporary Art" is one of the handsomest books of the season; it contains thirty etchings and colored plates after original pictures by eminent artists of the present day. This firm also offer "The Amazon and Madeira Rivers" and "Allibone's Prose-Quocations," containing nearly 9,000 quotations from 644 authors, an invaluable book of reference. "Irving's Christmas Legends" are just issued by this firm, profusely illustrated and handsomely printed. Among their latest publications are "The Literature of Kissing," a book of amusing interest, and "Sidney Lanier's Florida."

Porter & Coates publish a timely book, entitled "Evening Amusements for Every One." Their "Handy Volume Poets," in ten volumes, leather; bindings, gilt tops, in neat cases, will tempt the nimble sixpéace. Mr. Joseph Coates suggests that his publication, "The Count de Paris' History of the Civil War in America," will make a valuable Christmas present, and he is right, no doubt.

About, "has a book been written against the Revolu tion so full of arguments in favor of the Revolution." Thomas Carlyle was eighty years of age on the 4th of

Mr. Swinburne's new play on the Greek model is out,

Boccacció's centenary was celebrated at Certaldo on the 21st of December.

The anthropology of the voyage of the Austrian frigate Novara has appeared at Vienna, and is devoted to the cranta. To the roll of enthusiastic collections of obscure poets is to be added the name of Lord Houghton, who has

much increased his collection during his visit to Mrs. Oliphant's Christmas story, "An Odd Couple." forms a charming supplement to the London Graphic. The prize of twenty-five guineas for the best easay on "The Application of Sanitary Science to Rural Dis-

awarded to Mr. C. F. Gardner, whose work will soon be Mr. Gladstone drops theological polemics for his

tricts" drew out nineteen essays, and the prize was

ancient flame, classical criticism, in a new book on 'The Time and Place of Homer in History," which Macmilian & Co. will print.

Mr. Serjeant Cox will publish his book on the

"Mechanism of Man" early in January.

EVENING AUCTION SALES. Several days ago Messrs. Leavitt & Co., a well known

Several days ago Messrs. Leavitt & Co., a well known auction house, widely advertised the sale of a large quantity of art furniture, a surplus stock remaining in the warehouse of Messrs. Herier Brothers, of No. 877 Broadway. The sale was to have taken place last evening. About three in the afternoon a messenger from the Mayor's office called upon the auctioneers and notified them that if the auction proceeded they would lay themselves open to arrest. Word was at once sent to the owners, but, of course, it came too late for any section, and quite a number of prospective buyers were disappointed.